FEMISE Policy Seminar on
“Unlocking the Potential of the Private Sector in South Med Countries”

American University of Beirut (AUB)
Beirut, Lebanon
December 5, 2016

AGENDA

08:45-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:15 Welcome Note and Opening Remarks
Moderator: Ahmed Galal (FEMISE and ERF)
Patricia Augier (FEMISE and IM)
Simon Neaime (AUB and FEMISE)

09:15-11:00 Session 1: Macroeconomic Challenges and the Private Sector in South-Med Countries
Moderator: Ahmed Galal (FEMISE and ERF)
Speakers: Youssef El-Khalil (Banque de Liban), Monetary policy and meeting the challenges facing the private sector in Lebanon
Simon Neaime (AUB and FEMISE), Sustainability of EU-Med macroeconomic policies and their impact on the private sector: post-financial and debt crises
Sami Mouley (Tunis El Manar University and FEMISE), The impact of monetary policy and exchange regimes and the IMF program on the private sector in Tunisia

Open discussion on:
How the macro environment impacts the private sector development

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 Session 2: Private Sector Development: Obstacles and Opportunities
Moderator: Patricia Augier (FEMISE and IM)
Speakers: Patricia Augier (FEMISE and IM), Obstacles facing the private sector in the South Med region: an overview
Marie-Jo Char (GIZ/EBESM), Best practices for boosting the private sector and SMEs in the South Med countries
Khater Abi Habib (Kafalat, Lebanon), Overcoming constraints to develop SMEs sector in Lebanon: initiatives of Kafalat
Khalid Ben Abdallah (National Committee of Business Environment, Morocco), Improving the business environment for the private sector in Morocco: initiatives of the CNEA

Open discussion on:
How to overcome these challenges and what do governments need to do.

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13:00-14:30  Lunch Break

14:30-16:00  Session 3: The Role for the International Community in Enhancing the Private Sector

Moderator: Samir Makdisi (AUB and FEMISE)

Speakers: Malin Elander Oggero (The European Commission), EU approach to promote the private sector in South-MED countries

Nicola Ehlermann (OECD), Overcoming the challenges to the private sector from a policy perspective and the role of women entrepreneurs

Marcel Rached (IFC, the World Bank Group), Overcoming the constraints facing SME development in MENA countries and enhancing access to finance

Emmanuel Noutary (ANIMA), Why international cooperation is still essential to develop an efficient and vibrant private sector in South Med region?

Open discussion on:  
Whether suggested measures are transferable and on which sectors to prioritize

16:00-16:15  Coffee Break

16:15-17:30  Session 4: Roundtable Discussion and Closing: Way Forward for the Private Sector in South Med

Moderator: Raed Safadi (Department of Economic Development, Dubai Government)

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